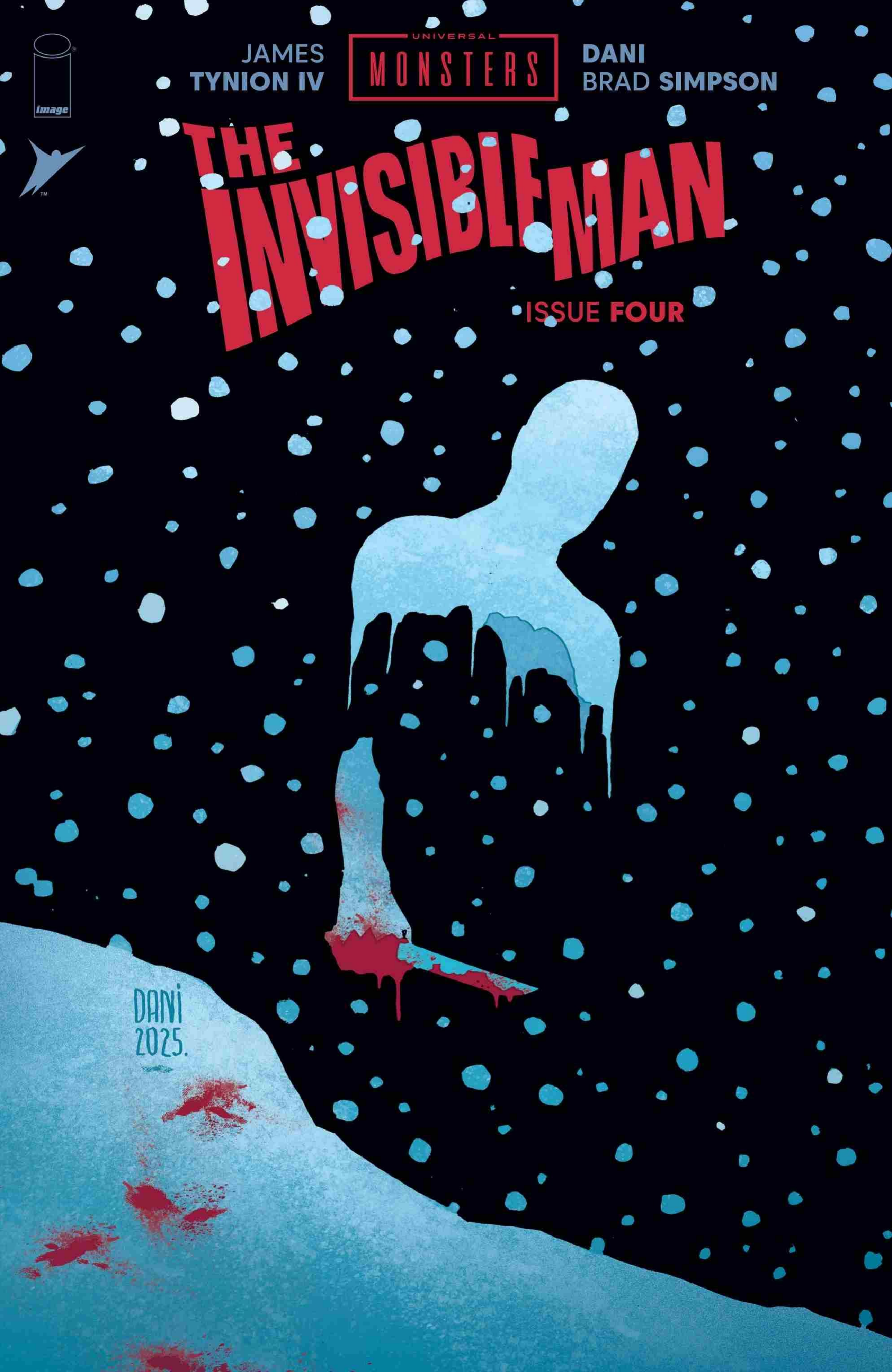
image
JAMES TYNION IV
UNIVERSAL MONSTERS
DANI
BRAD SIMPSON
THE INVISIBLE MAN
ISSUE FOUR
DANI
2025.

SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT AND IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

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LETTERER

UNIVERSAL MONSTERS

THE INVISIBLE MAN

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I had been careful.

My face was always covered in my dealings with Tommy. He did not know my name. He did not know where I lived.

If he had waited the night he escaped, he certainly could have followed me. But I had precautions.

I paid a coachman to take me far from my home and my laboratory.

I walked home on empty streets, pausing to listen for footsteps, and heard none. Nor would I in the months that followed.

FATHER SAYS THAT YOU'VE STOPPED WITH YOUR EXPERIMENTS.

YES, DEAR.

I'M SORRY, JACK. I KNOW YOU WERE TERRIBLY EXCITED ABOUT IT ALL, BUT I HAVE TO SAY MY FATHER SEEMED RELIEVED ABOUT THE WHOLE THING.
I'M GLAD.

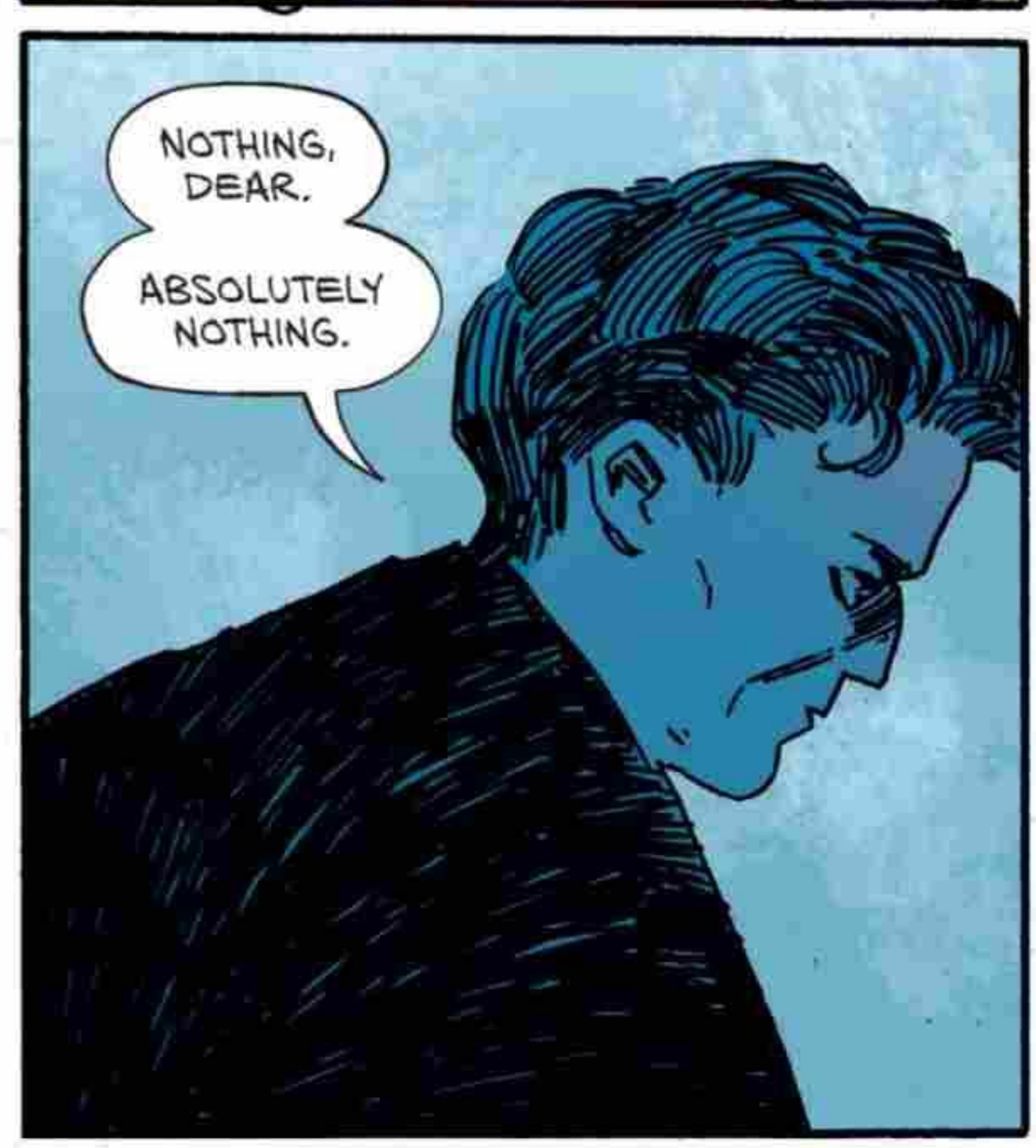
HE TOLD ME THAT IT WAS A SIGN OF YOUR MATURITY. BOTH TO KNOW WHEN TO PUT IT ALL ON THE LINE TO CHASE A NEW DISCOVERY, AND WHEN TO PUT IT TO BED.

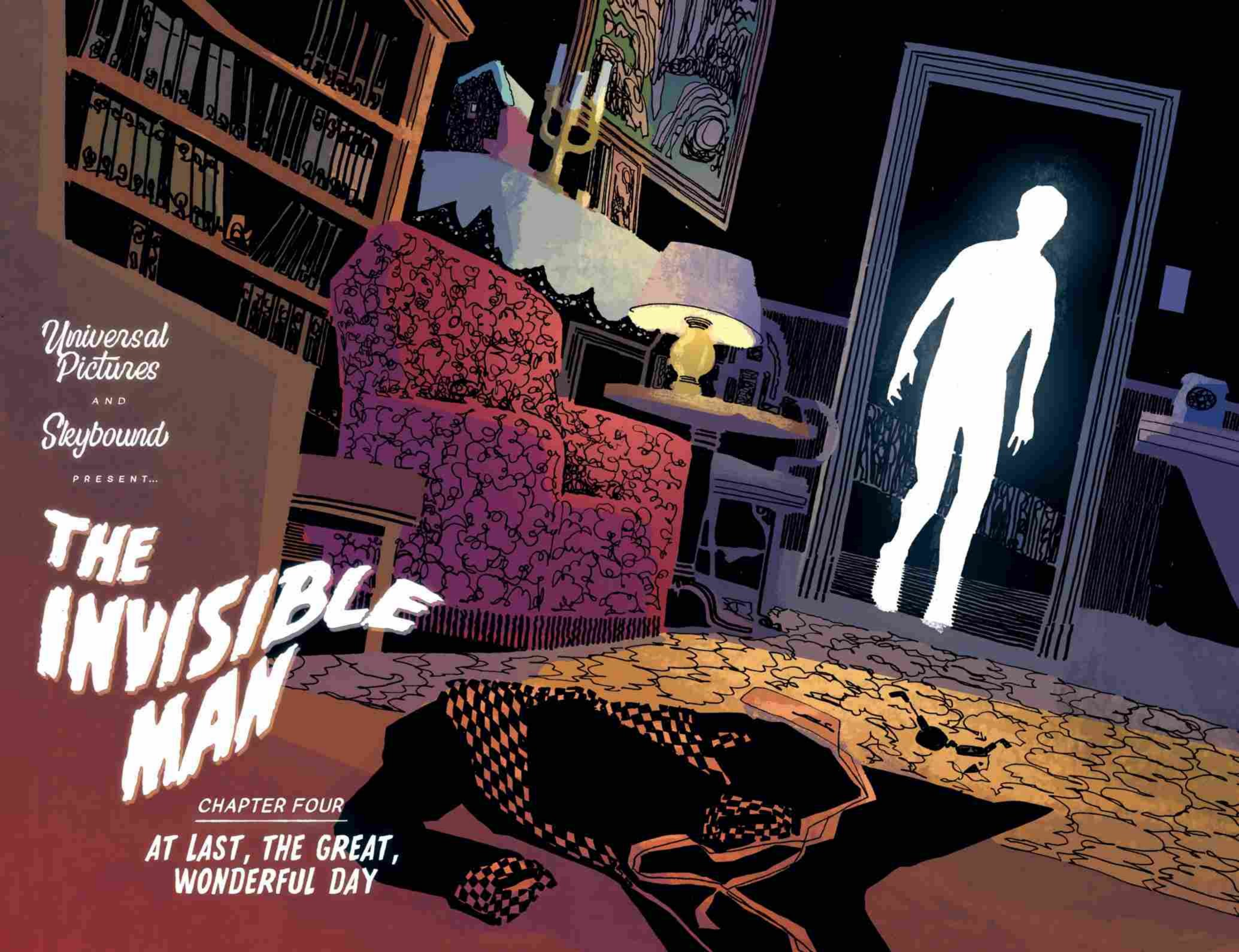
I THINK IF YOU ASKED FOR MY HAND IN MARRIAGE... HE WOULD SAY YES.

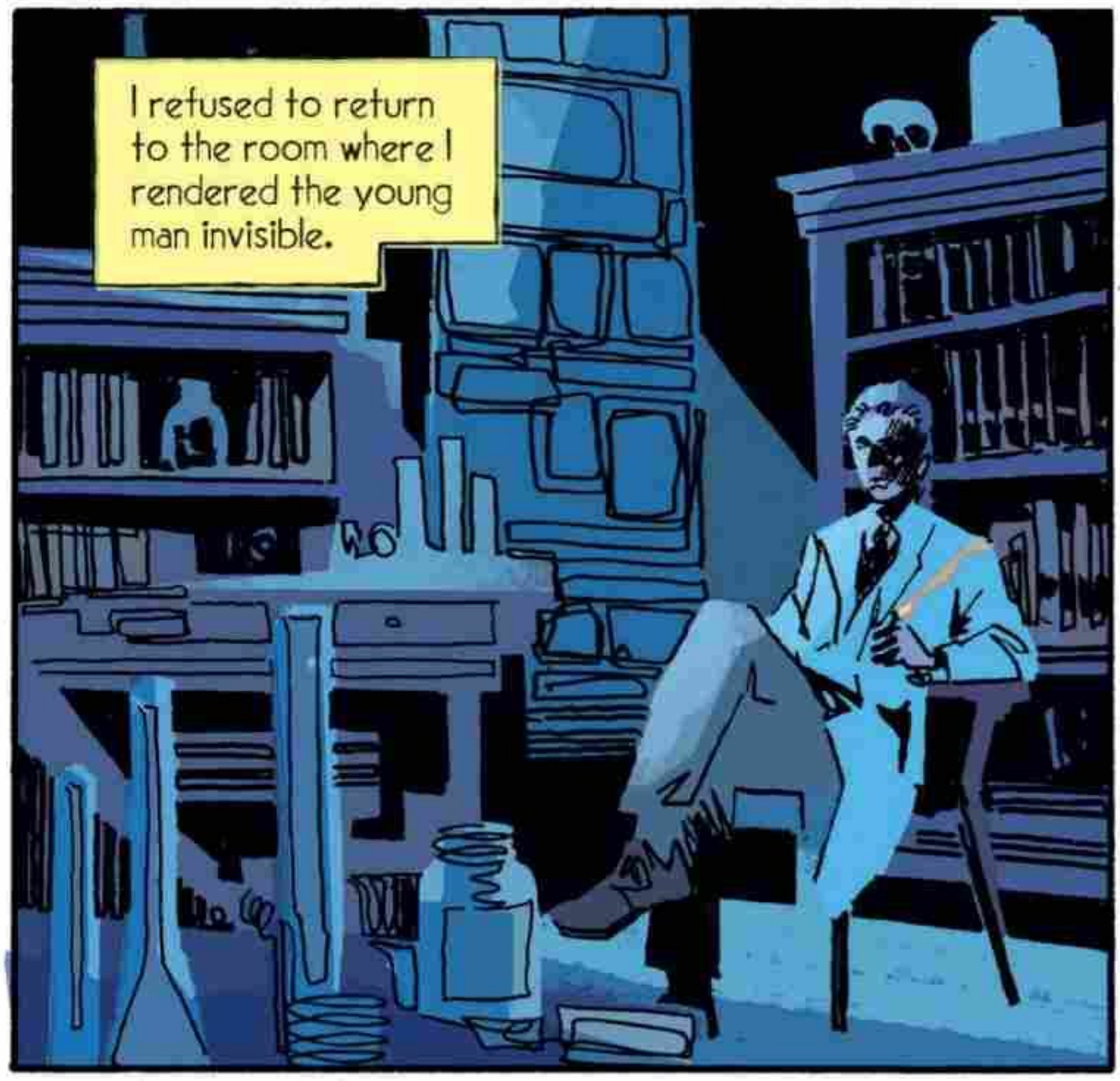
ALL IN GOOD TIME, FLORA.

YOU'VE BEEN SO JUMPY THESE PAST MONTHS, JACK. YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER.
AM I?

IT MAKES ME WONDER WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO SEE THERE.


NOTHING, DEAR.
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.


Universal Pictures
AND
Skybound
PRESENT...
THE INVISIBLE MAN
CHAPTER FOUR
AT LAST, THE GREAT, WONDERFUL DAY


I refused to return to the room where I rendered the young man invisible.

But even so, the possibility of Tommy's presence haunted me.

I had seen what the Monocaine had done to the mind of an animal.

To a young man, even one pulled from the gutter, its potential was far deadlier.

His mind, razor sharp and growing sharper by the day.

An invisible man was loose upon the world, and I had loosed him there.

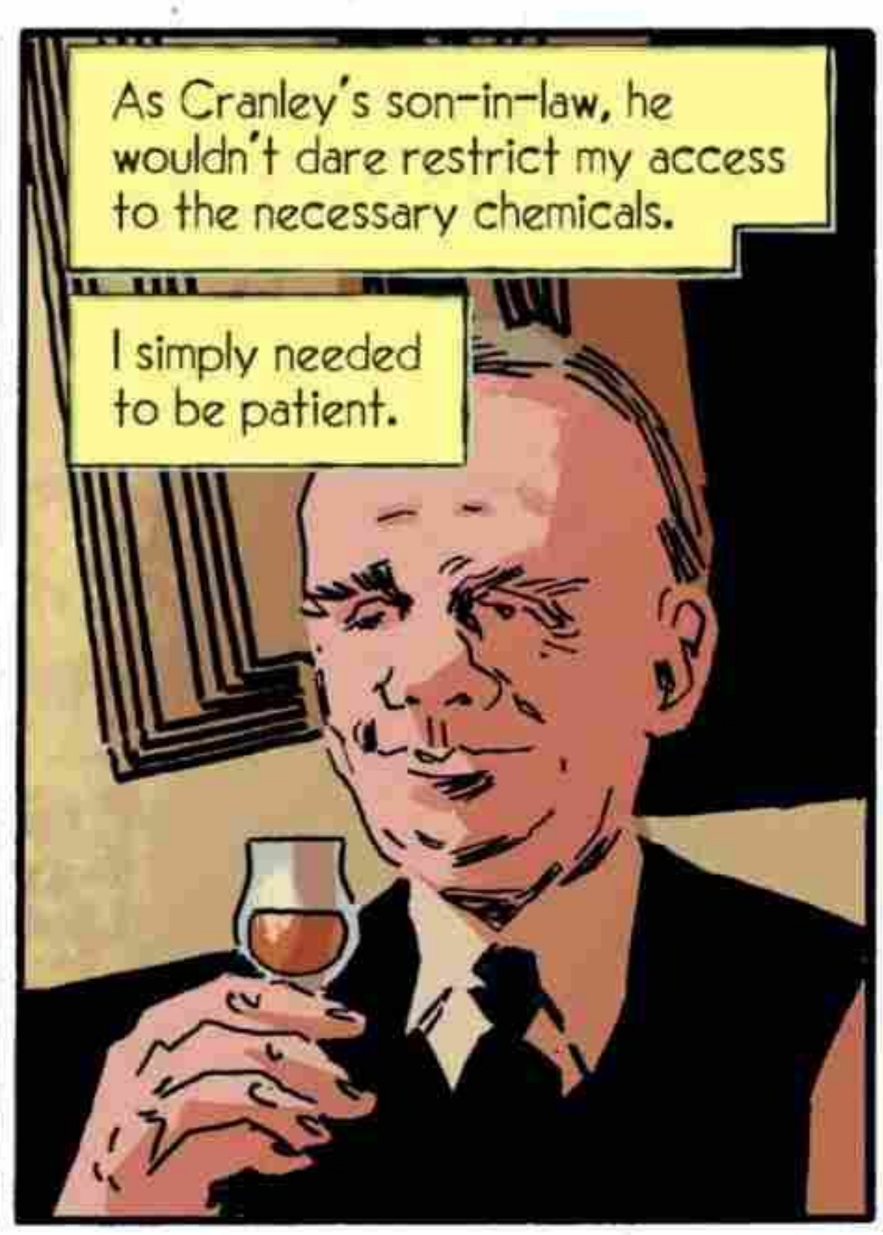
I decided at once that I would pause my experiments. Cranley's timeline for provable results was too much to bear.

I would go back to my mundane chemistry.

My formula worked. Slow doses of the correct combination over the course of a month rendered Tommy fully invisible.

Now, the important thing was to put the work to paper.

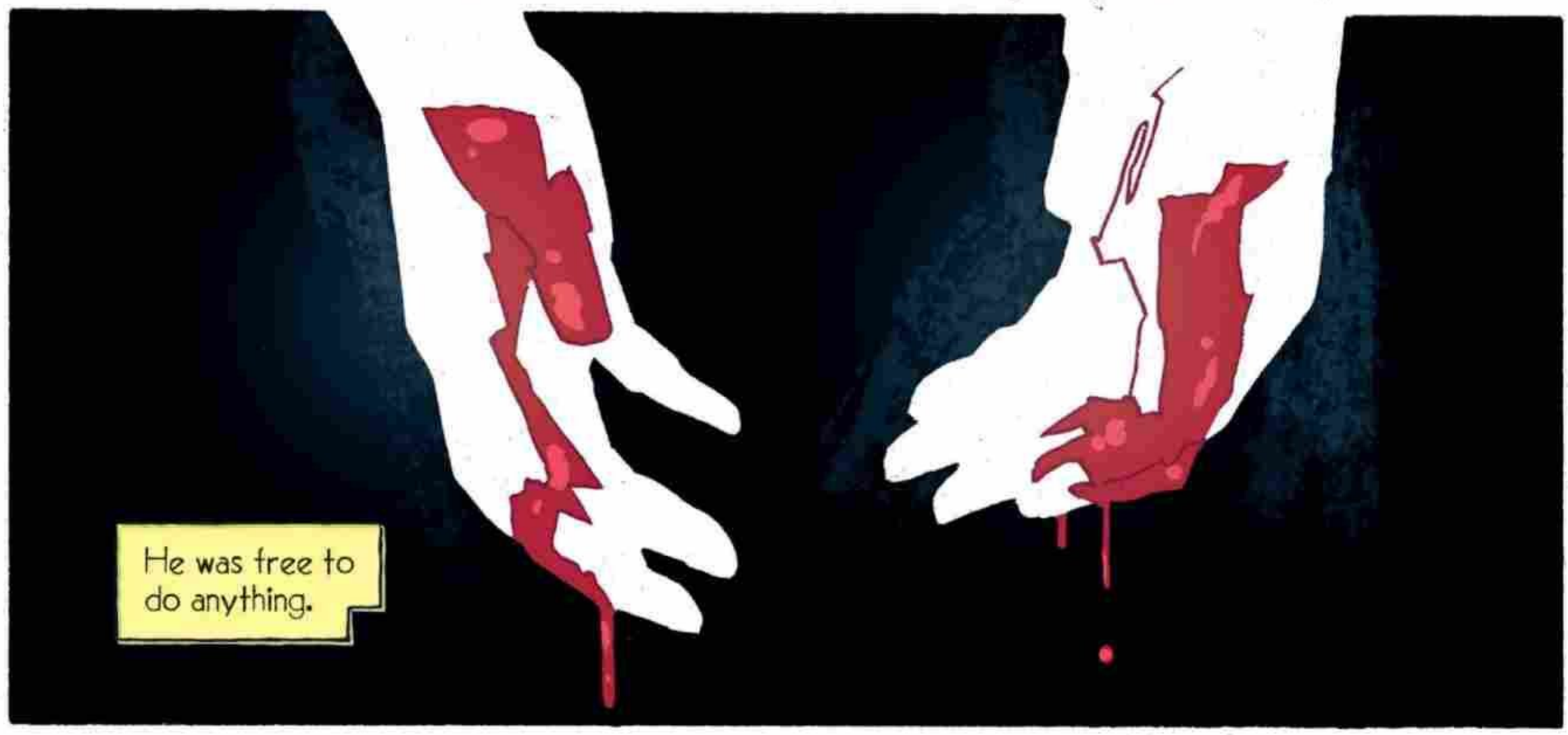
I planned to ask for Flora's hand in marriage before the New Year. With some time and distance, I would get back to the work in earnest.


As Cranley's son-in-law, he wouldn't dare restrict my access to the necessary chemicals.
I simply needed to be patient.

But still, I was hard-pressed not to think of what young Tommy might be up to. Surely, he had been wronged to end up on those streets.

I imagined him slinking into the children's home he must have been raised in.

To the police officers who had abused him. Anyone who had ever cast him a sideways sneer as they walked down the city alleys.

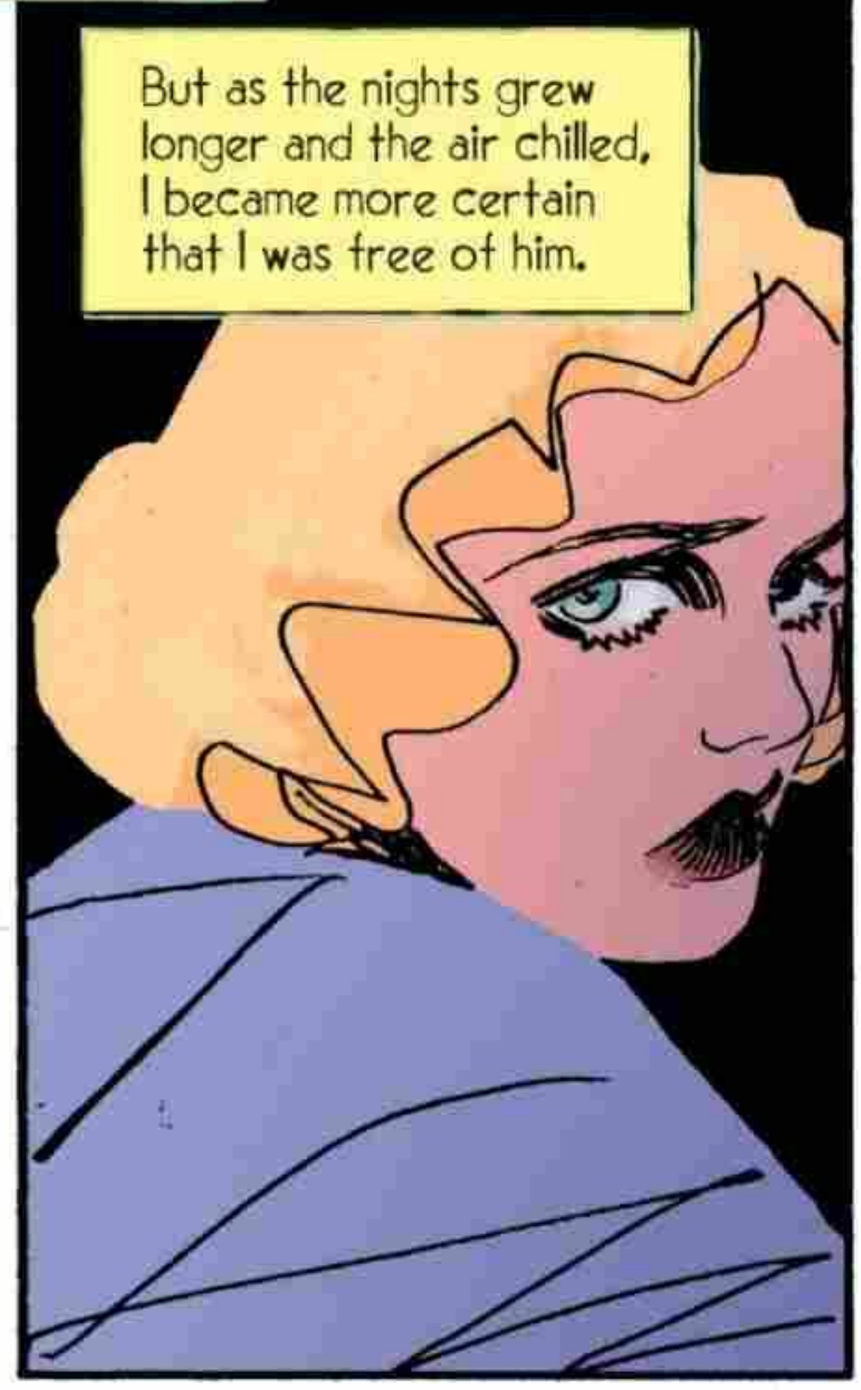

He was free to do anything.

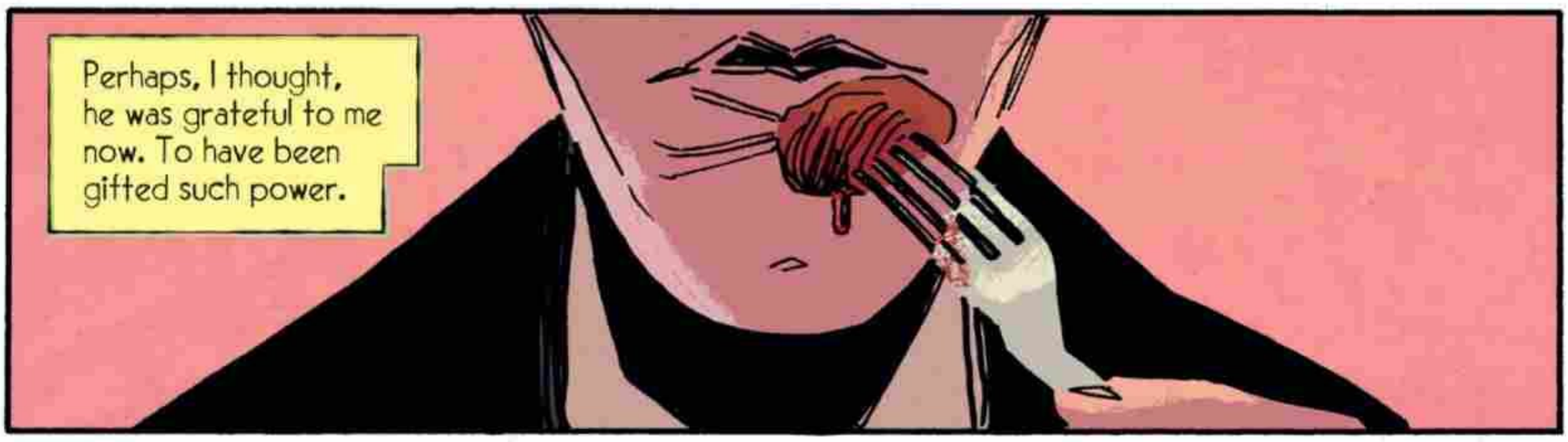
To walk anywhere.

I was not free.
I was constrained by the paces of my ordinary life.

Forced to endure the nattering of my fool lab partner, Kemp, and the old blowhard whose fortune I needed to complete my work.
Forced to smile and play my expected part under their watchful gaze.

From time to time, I would sit alone in a room, weary, imagining Tommy in the corner standing there. Watching me, studying me.


But as the nights grew longer and the air chilled, I became more certain that I was free of him.

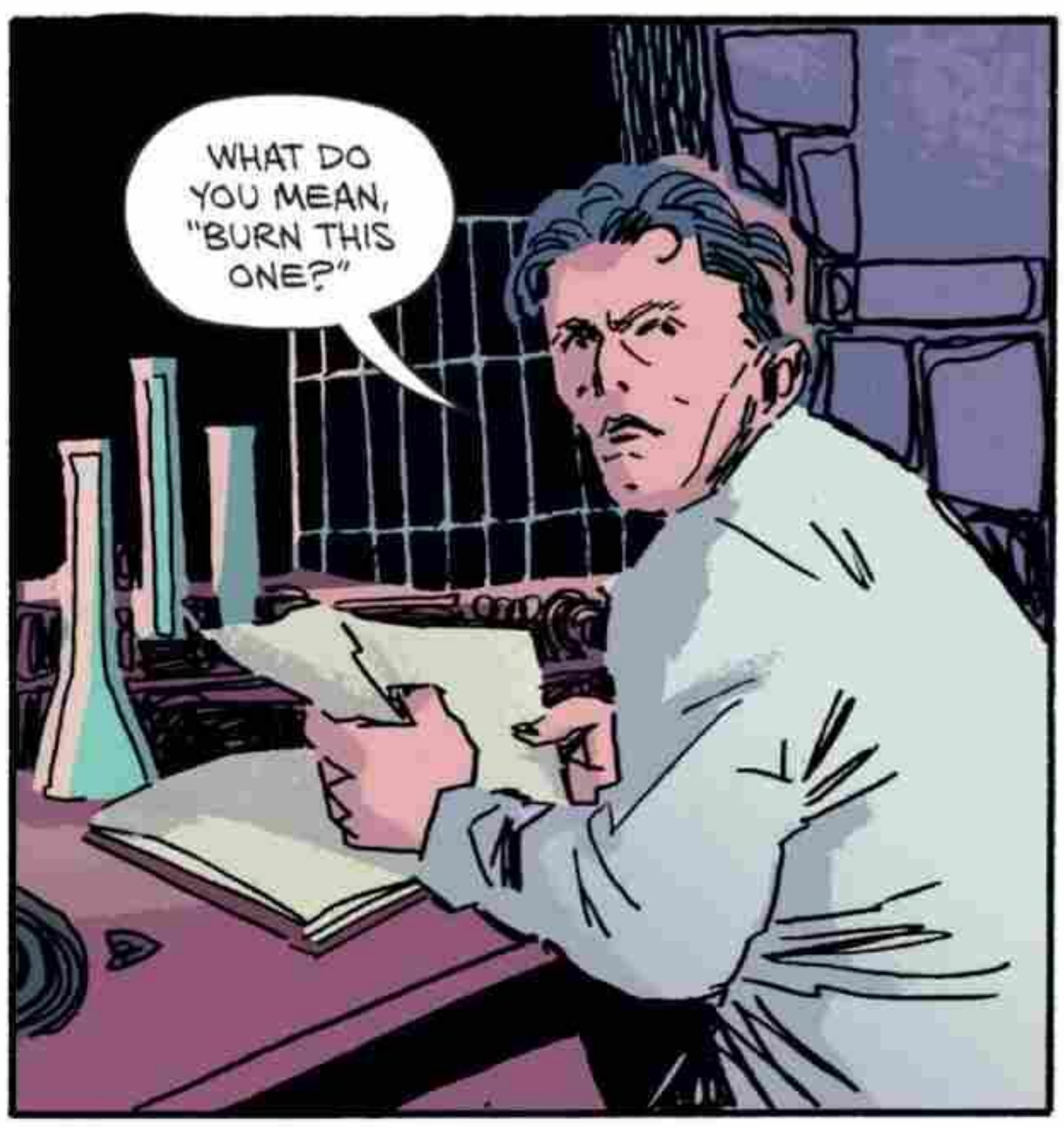

Perhaps, I thought, he was grateful to me now. To have been gifted such power.

Or perhaps my life seemed punishment enough.

I'VE A NOTE FOR YOU, GRIFFIN.
GRIFFIN

HM?
TRY NOT TO BURN THIS ONE.

You have made me nothing. And so, I too will make you nothing. I will take your life from you, piece by piece, and there is nothing that you can do to stop me.
– TOMMY


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "BURN THIS ONE?"

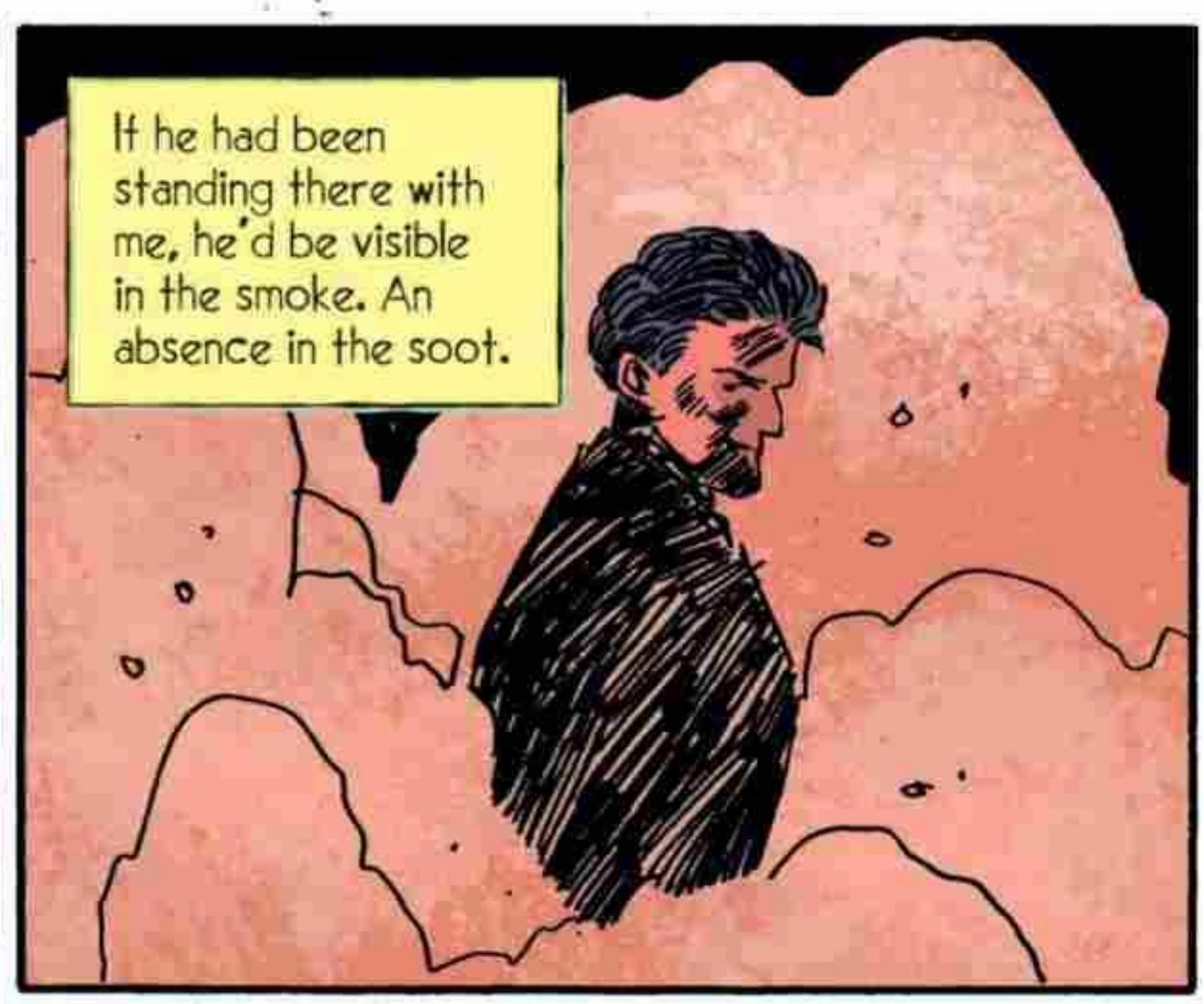
CAN'T YOU SMELL THE PAPERS BURNING IN THE FURNACE?

A year of my life up in smoke.

All my precise measurements. Everything I had learned in my experiments gone. A cruel and clever strike against me.

But I had been planning on this moment every waking moment for months now. Tommy had given me too much time.

JACK, YOU'VE CLOGGED THE FLUE! THE ROOM IS FILLING UP WITH SMOKE!


If he had been standing there with me, he'd be visible in the smoke. An absence in the soot.

Unobserved, I knew precisely what to do next.

I had months to consider the problem of an invisible hunter, and what to do the moment he struck. I had a letter ready from the week following Tommy's escape.

An explanation that I had a breakthrough in my formula and would not return until I saw it through. I set the envelope on Cranley's desk, and grabbed a bag I had secreted in the office.

Dr. Cranley.

Outside, I summoned a coach and directed him to one end of town. Once I determined Tommy had not climbed aboard, I redirected it, back into the heart of the city.

To the room where I had slowly erased Tommy. It lay undisturbed, as I knew it would be. I had continued to mail the rent in over the months.

Before entering, I dropped another pre-written letter into the mail, outlining my weekly needs to a nearby grocer, with the directions to leave them at the top of the staircase.

There were no other rooms on my floor of the building. I set to work scattering flour along the floorboards and upon the windowsills.

FLOUR

They would mark any possible intrusion, and I would reset the flour any time I retrieved my groceries.

I was certain that Tommy had underestimated me. I imagined him lurking unseen in the corner of Cranley's sitting room.

Perhaps he imagined that he would throttle my bride-to-be in front of me. That I would have rushed to her side to protect her the moment I understood his plot against me.

How baffled he must have been when I failed to arrive. When my absence continued.

How angry he must have been to be outwitted by me once more. I liked to imagine his rage in the recognition that he had been bested by me.

That he had no idea where I was. The fool! The damn fool. To think he could outwit me. To think he was better.

Destroying my notes was the only real damage he had dealt against me. But I had time now.

Time to reconstruct it all from memory as I recreated the circumstances of his transformation in myself. And day by day, the formula did its work.

My already brilliant mind surged with new leaps and new brilliance. I made connections I had never made before. The work was finer now than it had ever been.

Why, I'd go so far as to say I was grateful to Tommy for freeing me from the limitations of my earlier, lesser mind.

I was working against time, I knew. Perhaps Tommy would grow so angry he would slit the throats of Cranley, Kemp, and poor Flora. A brutal little tantrum.
Or perhaps he would simply grow bored.

He would retrace every place he had seen me walk these past months.

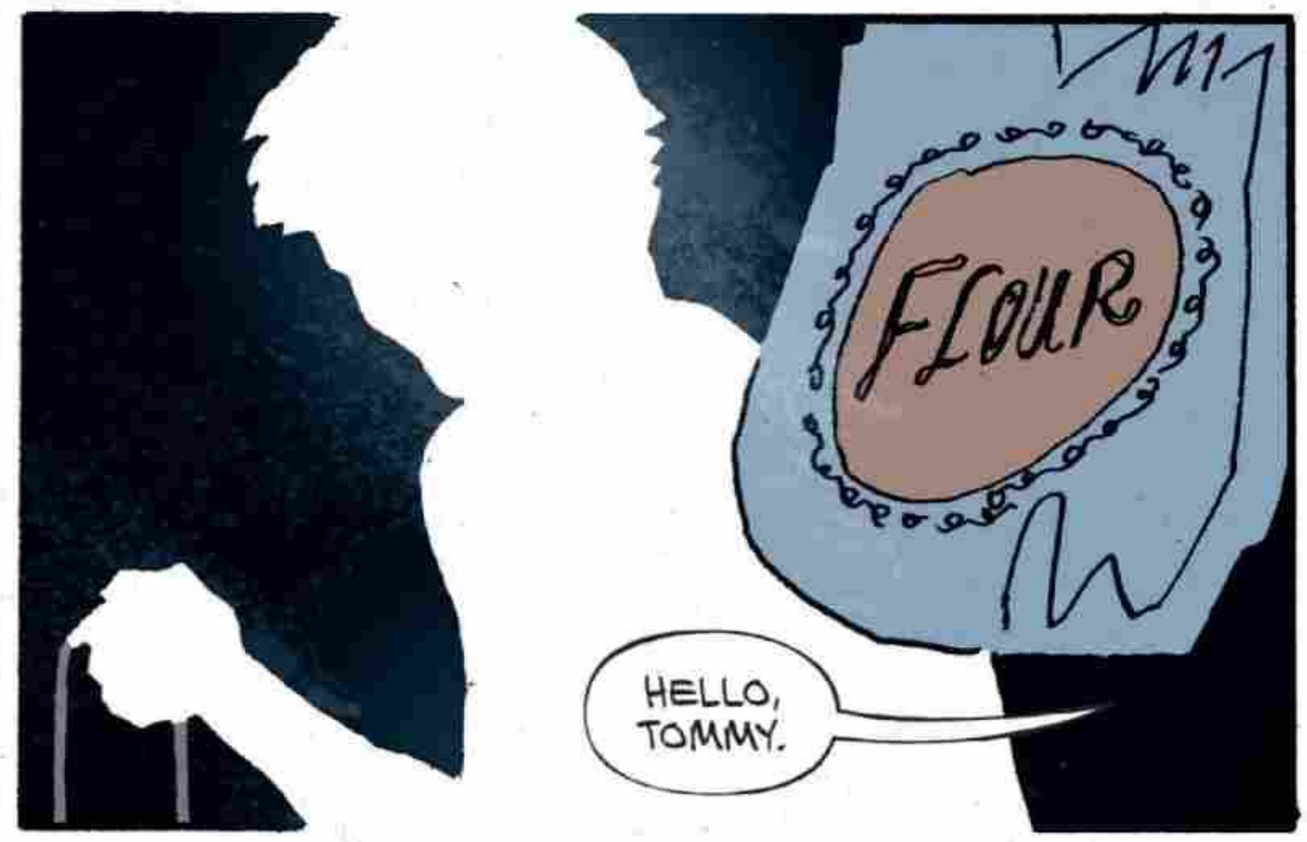
And in time there would only be one more place to check.

One place he knew I had been.

This time, he would not try to prolong my torture.

If he found the opportunity, he must now understand that the only way to stop me was to kill me.

NO...
NO!


FLOUR
HELLO, TOMMY.

FLOUR

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.

HELP ME! HELP ME PLEASE!!

WHAT A FOOLISH CHILD YOU ARE.

YOU COULD HAVE HAD THE WORLD. I GAVE IT TO YOU. YOU WERE CLEVER ENOUGH TO WRIGGLE OUT OF MY GRASP, AND YOU COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING.
YOU COULD HAVE RULED THE WORLD!

YOU'RE MAD. I KNEW IT FROM THE START, BUT I KNOW IT ALL THE MORE NOW.
YOU THINK I FELT POWERFUL? EVEN WHEN I WAS CAST OUT ON THE STREET, I NEVER FELT SO ALONE. I SAW THINGS I NEVER OUGHT TO HAVE SEEN AND TOOK NO PLEASURE IN IT.

A DAMNED HALF-LIFE IS WHAT IT IS, GRIFFIN! A NO-LIFE! A SORRY NOTHING! YOU MADE ME ALWAYS APART.
WHEN I THOUGHT OF HOW I'D GET MY VENGEANCE ON YOU, I THOUGHT ABOUT DOING IT ALL TO YOU. BUT YOU'D NEED A SOUL TO FEEL THE PAIN.

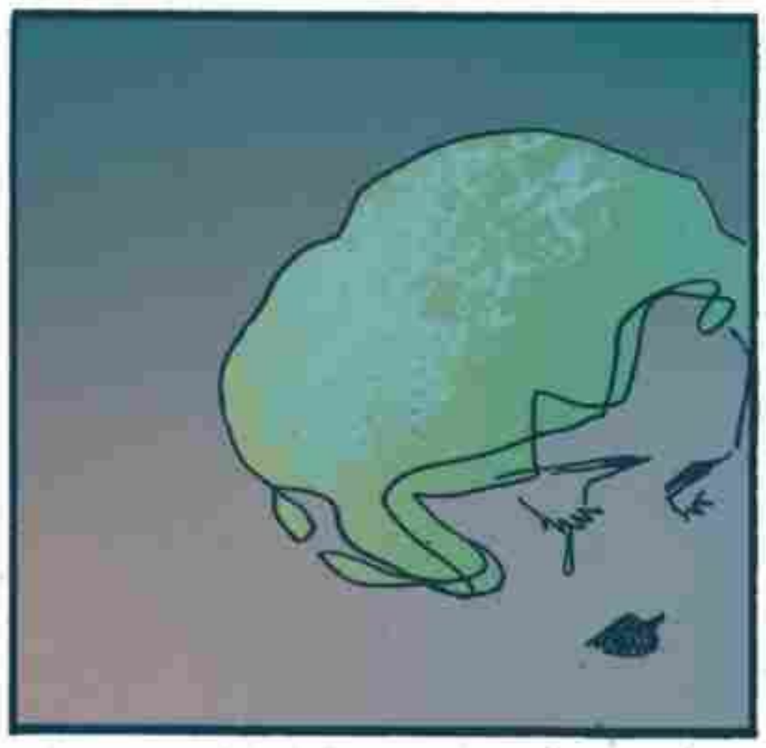
YOU WERE ALWAYS A MONSTER, BUT YOU CAN'T PRETEND YOU'RE ANYTHING BUT, NOW. NO HUMAN EYES WILL EVER LOOK ON YOU TENDERLY AGAIN.
YOU WILL BE ALONE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

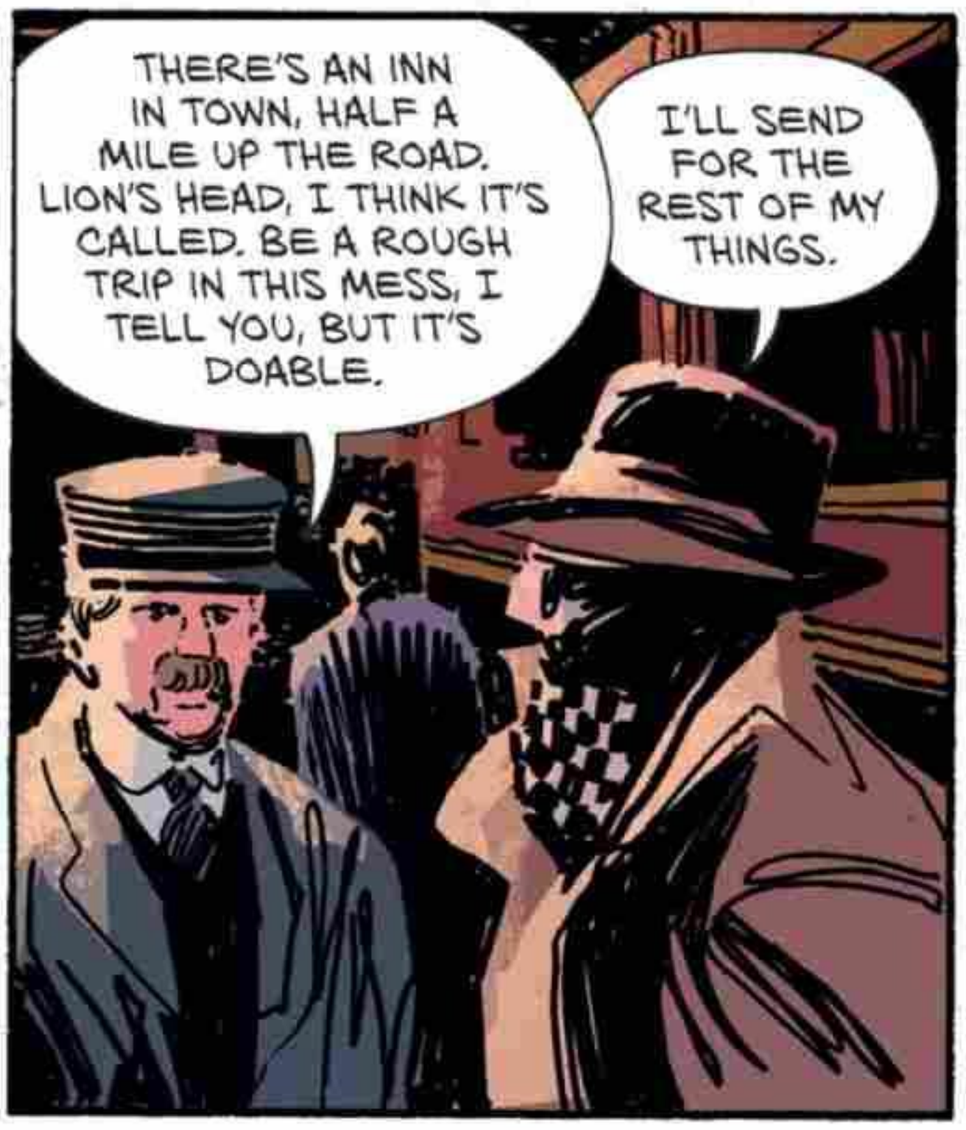
THE ONLY CURE FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE IS DEATH. I'VE READ YOUR NOTES AND UNDERSTOOD THEM. THERE IS NO WAY BACK.
SO CURE ME AND DAMN YOURSELF TO SOLITUDE.

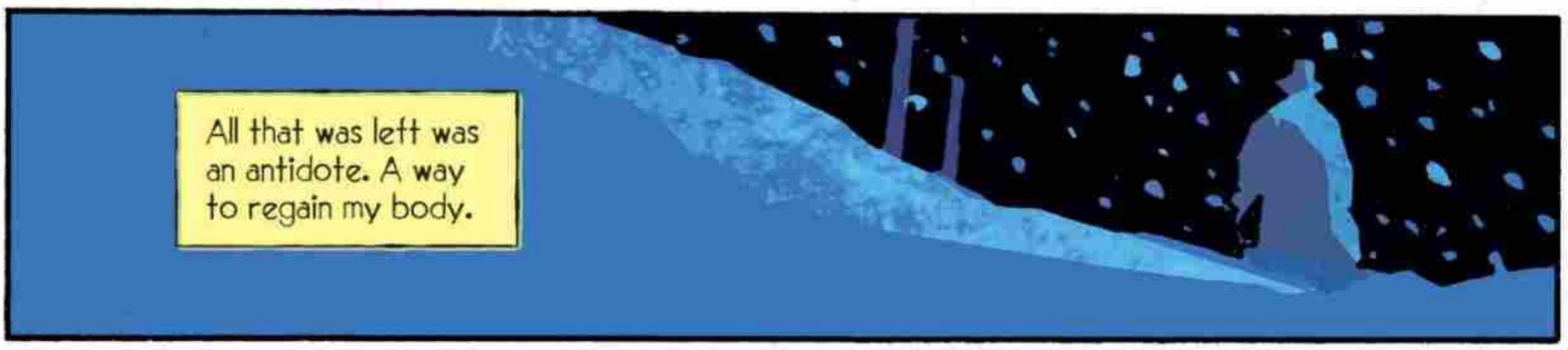
Yes. It began with the Monocaine. A small experiment with an exotic chemical that would soon unlock unimagined power over the course of a year of experiments.

I was now able to render a fully grown man invisible. I had replicated the experiment. Perfected it.

And I did it all alone. None of them had believed I would amount to anything. None could comprehend what I was capable of beyond their prying eyes.





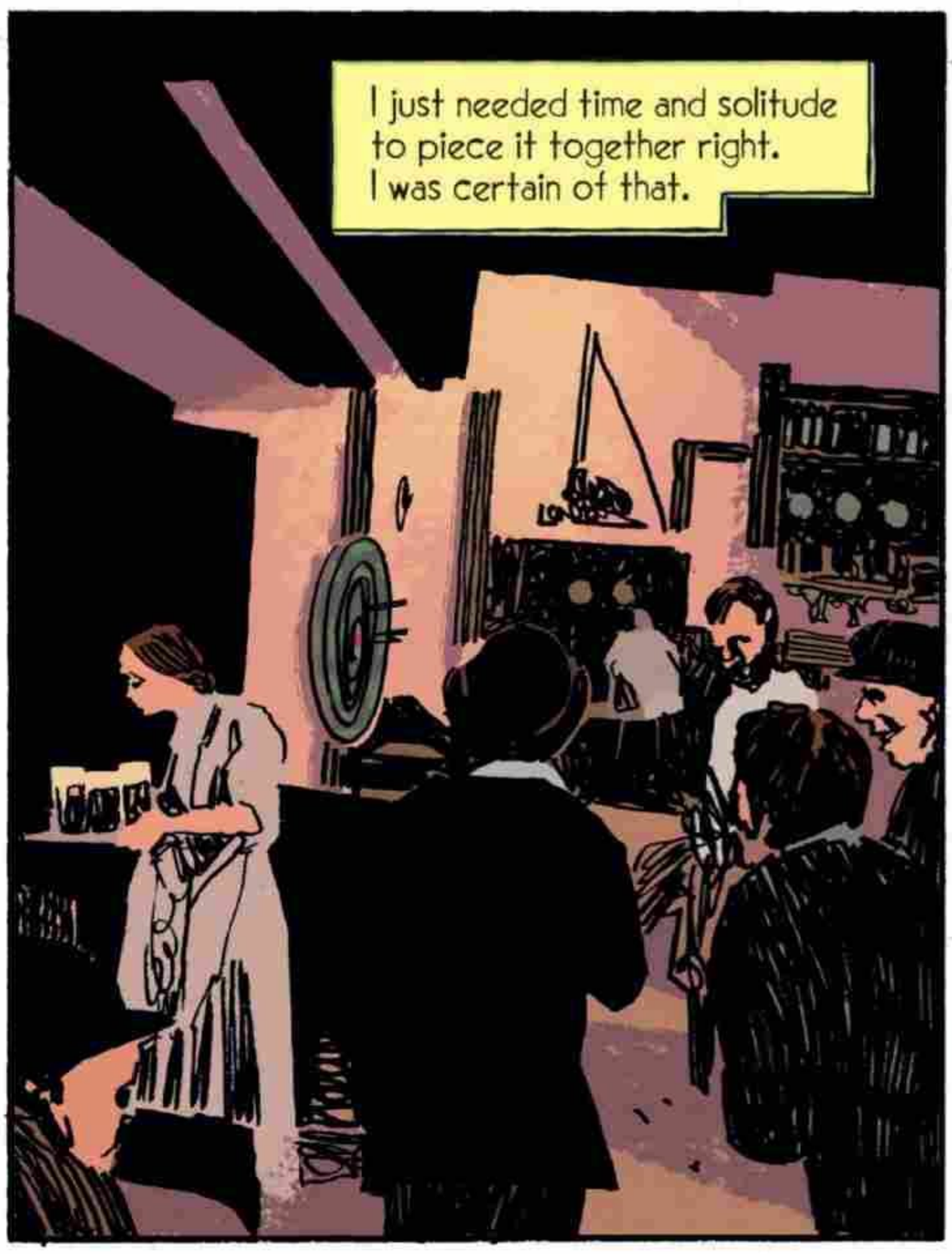


True power would come when I could slip back and forth.

I refused to believe that small-minded boy who laughed in the face of what he was given. I would have all this power, and be seen, as well.
TO IRVING ½ MI

Tommy was wrong. He was a simpleton, uneducated. He must be wrong.

THE LION'S HEAD


I just needed time and solitude to piece it together right. I was certain of that.

Death could not be the only answer.

There must be a way back.
THE END.

MONSTER MAIL

Got something to say? We want to hear from you! Email us at: **UniversalMonsters@skybound.com** and mark "OK TO PRINT!"

My fellow monsters!

Welcome back to MONSTER MAIL! Senior Editor Diegs Lopez still reporting during Alex's paternity leave, and I'm happy to drive the ship as this fantastic miniseries comes to an end. What a finale! James, DaNi, Brad, and Becca brought this demented tale to a heartbreaking conclusion. The clash of the invisible men ended in a bloody horror that will certainly not to be forgotten soon.

And with another Universal Monsters series coming to an end, we are excited to include an announcement for the next! But first, let's dive into some letters for THE INVISIBLE MAN!

Dear Monster Mail,

I wrote in all the way back in the Dracula series and told you guys how much I was in awe of the series. Well my friends, you've done it again!! The first issue of The Invisible Man knocked it out of the park once more! That ominous & foreboding atmosphere is back & I can tell this is going to be a standout series. The artwork is gothic and chilling and in my opinion perfect for this series! Thanks again for bringing all the Universal Monsters back in the comics! I'm looking forward to seeing what else you have lined up for the fans. Until then make mine MONSTER.

Thank you, Justin! Glad to see you back in our letter column and happy you have come back for more monster fun. Agree that DaNi is perfect for bringing gothic horror to life; her use of shadows and emotional character work highlighting Jack's twisted nature especially stand out.

Monster Mail:

Congrats on a great first issue of the Invisible Man. I have enjoyed the tangential nature of all the Universal Monsters series in providing a little more flesh to the bones of the original movie, diving deeper into the characters that we have gotten to know through hours of movie rewatches.

While I am always excited when Tynion IV takes on a horror story, I was most excited about DaNi providing art to this series. Her mastery of negative space art seems like a glorious match made in the infernal depths of the soulless mind. I can't wait to see how she shares these skills in the remaining issues.

Thanks for bringing new life into this character that has provided generations with a chill, wondering if someone is in the room with them. Perhaps, someone is reading this letter over your very own shoulder.

Adam Anderson
McGaheysville, VA

EGADS! I certainly hope no one is looking over my shoulder, there are Universal Monsters spoilers on my computer! But I couldn't have put it better myself, Adam, what a wonderful description of how DaNi has brought James's version of Jack Griffin to life throughout this series.

Hello Monster Mail,

I've been getting each issue of the Universal Monsters series, and I have been most impressed by this first issue of The Invisible Man. I picked it up on release day and read it the very next day. Sometimes I wait until all issues are released, but I'm glad I didn't wait this time. I loved it so much I read it again later in the day and took more time with it to delve deeply into all of the colors on the page. I admittedly wasn't the hugest fan of Martin Simmonds' gritty art style in the Dracula series, yet absolutely loved James Tynion IV's writing. And

now in The Invisible Man, I might be seeing my favorite artwork yet by DaNi and Brad Simpson! The colors in each panel really pop and blend so well together with the other panels on one page. Can't wait to see what the next issues have in store for my favorite Universal Monster!

Thanks,

Quinn
Coon Rapids, MN

Hi, Quinn! Thank you for picking up every issue of our Universal Monsters series over the years! We really do appreciate it. And so happy you enjoyed that first issue of The Invisible Man! I fully agree that Brad is an absolute superstar of a colorist and works beautifully over DaNi's line work. Always happy to hear when someone can take the time to really appreciate the work done by the artistic team!

Hello Monster Mail!

I am writing in regards to your series involving The Invisible Man, written by the incredible James Tynion IV, with art by Dani to boot. I love it! If I'm being honest, I had no idea this was a full-fledged series. One, I'm not into horror material (This changed my opinion, however!) Two, I'm fairly new to reading Image Comics. I know about the existence of the character The Invisible Man, yet never have seen the films. If this is a take on that, I may give it a watch when I have the time! The writing by Tynion IV and Dani's art bounce off each other seamlessly! I truly felt chills when Cranley showed his true colors. Getting exposed to this new world for me is making me fall more and more in love with a genre I have little familiarity with. I want to finish by saying thanks for producing this, I feel it was tailor made for me lol.

Luke Abbott
Philadelphia,PA

Hi, Luke! Wow! As a fellow horror obsessive, I am so glad this series has opened the door for you to check out some more horror stories. If you haven't checked out any of the classic Universal Monster movies of the 30s, 40s, and 50s, absolutely give them a watch! And then come back for more of our Universal Monster comics! I may be biased but I feel like they are all stellar. And if you are looking for even more Image/Skybound horror, definitely check out our newest volume of CREEPSHOW!

Hello!!

I'm a huge fan of the Invisible Man, I reread the novel constantly and I'm always making my friends watch the 1933 movie. I'd talk their ears off about how bad I wanted a comic adaptation and upon hearing about the current run, I knew I had to read it the second it was out.

It has exceeded my expectations in art, dialog, and story. Needless to say, I'm downright hyped for more. I'm so glad the story is in your collective hands, I could not have chosen better people and a better publisher myself.

I eagerly await more!

Skyler E.
Texas

Hi, Skyler! Thank you for writing in! I hope we have continued to exceed your expectations throughout the rest of the series. Happy to have your trust bringing this classic to life!

Hello,

I knew I had to grab the first issue of The Invisible Man when I saw not just James Tynion IV but Dani too. Both of them are current favorites.

The first issue did not disappoint! Love the look and feel of the art and story. Can't

wait to see where it goes. I'd love a couple Dani variant covers in the future!

Tony
San Bernardino, CA

Hi, Tony! DaNi's covers are always knockout. While we won't have any for this series I hope you've appreciated her main covers as well as the incredible variant covers from the artists that Alex has brought together for this series.

Heya!

Even though I've never seen a Universal Monsters film (a horrible mistake I intend to rectify after reading these issues) I've always found the Invisible Man particularly compelling. The image of a man wrapped in bandages, concealing something horrible, only to remove them and reveal absolutely nothing- it's just so damn compelling! So of course, I had to pick up the first issue of James Tynion IV's new run on the character (with the incredible, amazing, beautiful art of DaNi, who I've been a devoted fan of since I read her work on the beautiful Arkham City).
All this to say, oh my gosh!!!! This book is incredible, only one issue in and I'm already fiending for the hardcover. Keep it up, everyone involved- I think you've found the perfect creative team for our unseen spectacled friend.

With monstrous admiration,

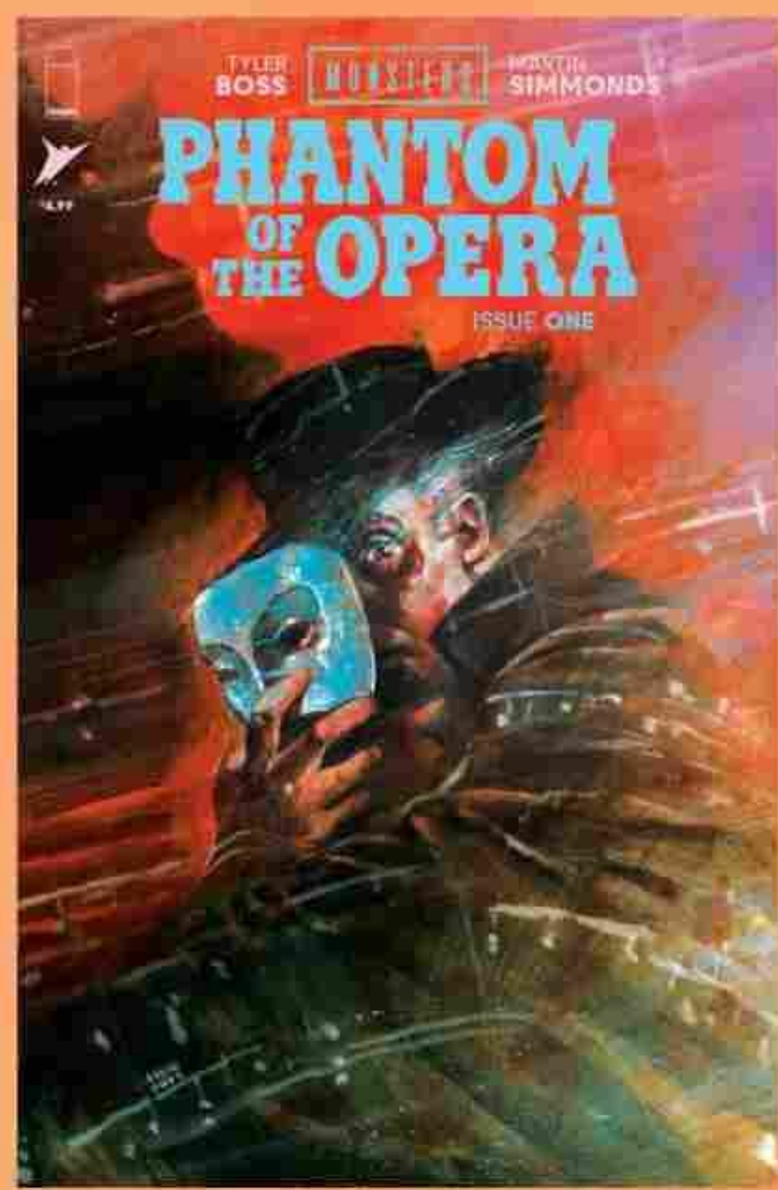
Cylas Moloney
Moranbah, QLD, Australia

Heya, Cylas! Thank you for writing in! Those classic Universal Monster designs are iconic for a reason. I know Monster-in-Chief Alex Antone has really made sure that those original monster designs only change so much in these interpretations and are the visual guiding light for each series. Same goes here, and DaNi was indeed perfect for bringing to life the unseen horror of The Invisible Man. Thanks for tuning in, and definitely give those original monster flicks a watch!

And with the conclusion of UNIVERSAL MONSTERS: THE INVISIBLE MAN, comes a new Universal Monster series! This will have just been announced but for anyone who missed it, the next Universal Monster book will be PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, written by superstar cartoonist Tyler Boss and illustrated by DRACULA artist extraordinaire Martin Simmonds. This is nightmarish murder story that you are NOT going to want to miss. In comic stores everywhere this coming February! Please make sure to tell your retailers to add it to your pull list and for them to MAKE MINE MONSTERS!

Thank you, readers, for continuing to support this line of comic books. Now please enjoy this short preview of UNIVERSAL MONSTERS: PHANTOM OF THE OPERA!

Diegs
Los Angeles, CA



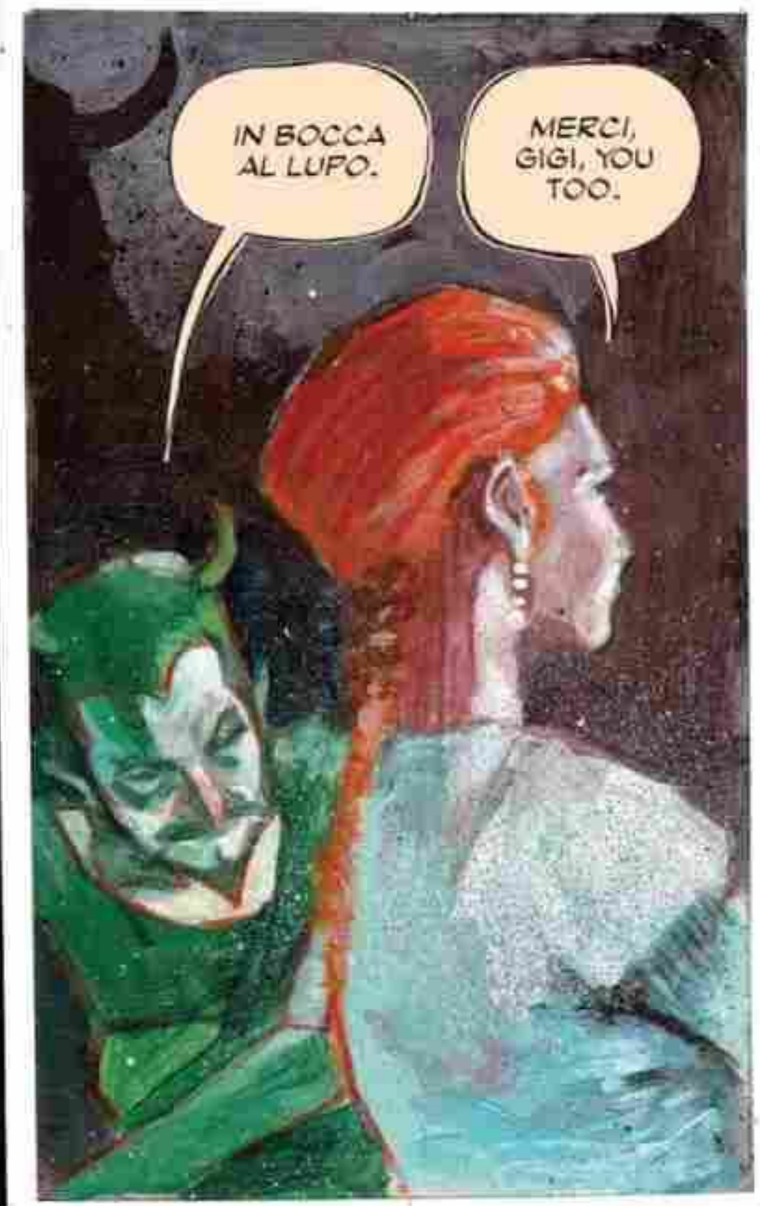
SNIFFFFF

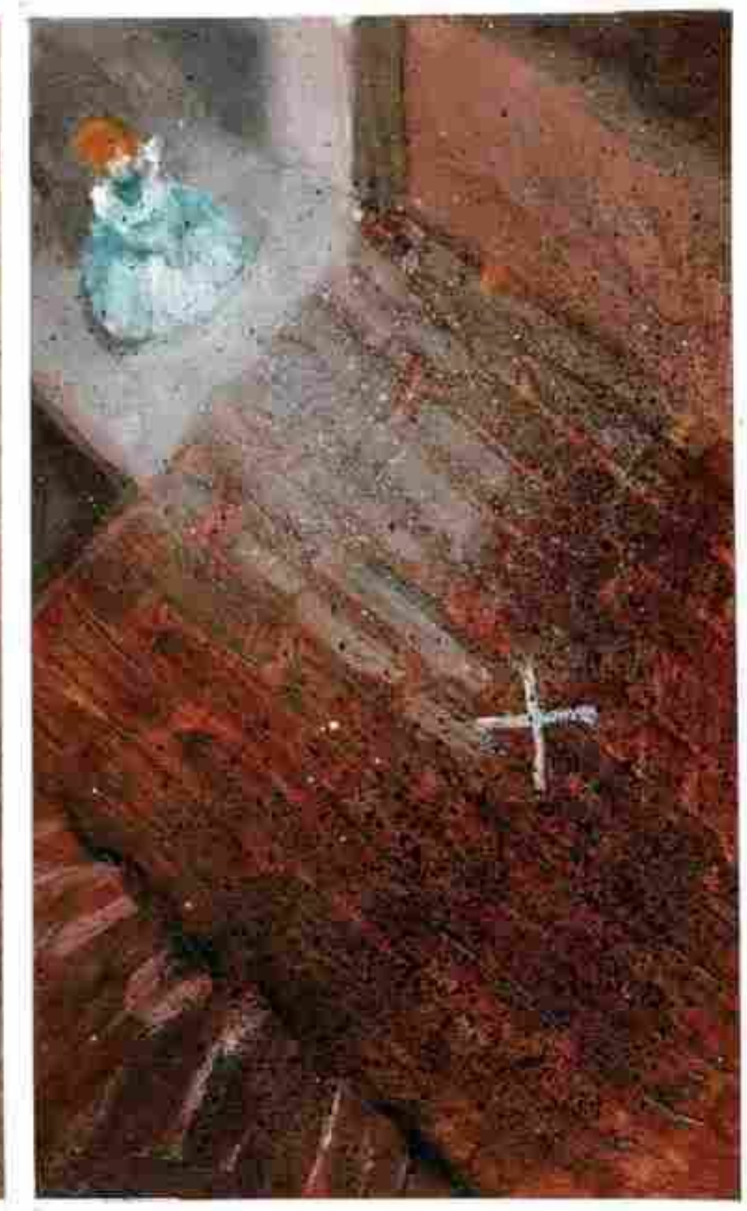
EVERYONE LOVES YOU. ALL OF PARIS WANTS YOU. THEY WISH THEY WERE YOU.

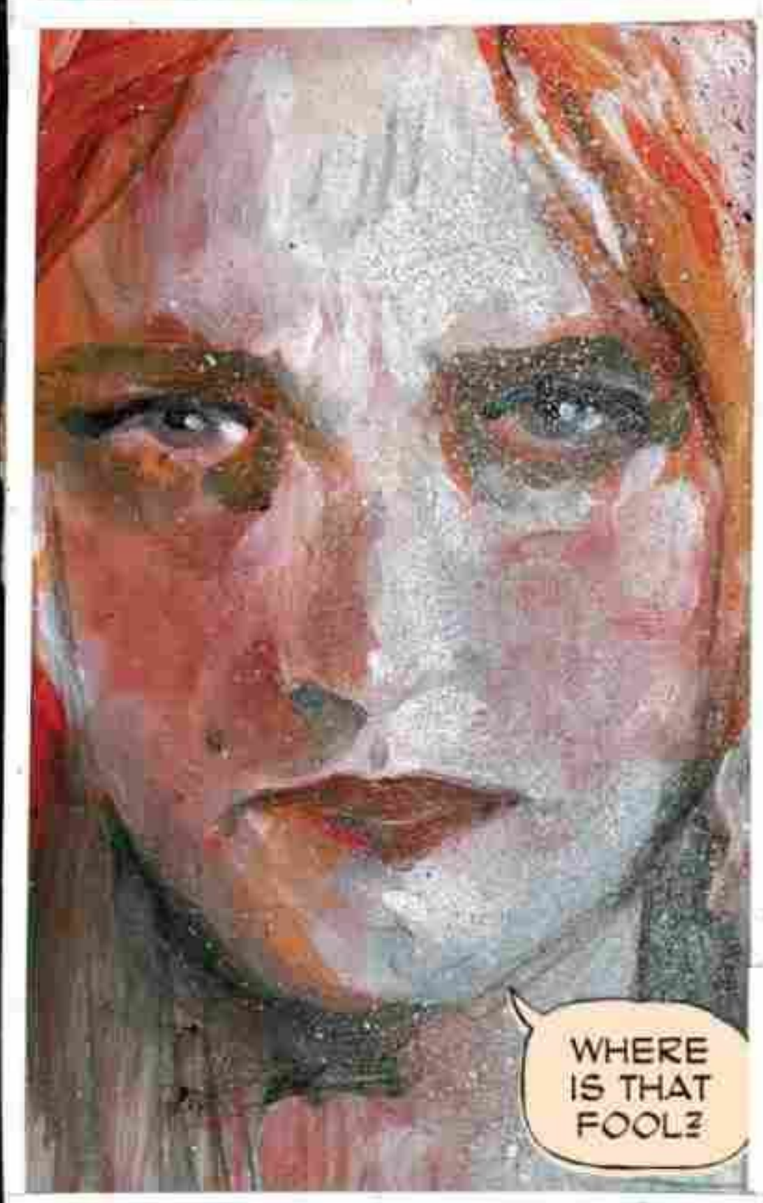
BREAK A LEG, MADEMOISELLE BIANCAROLLI!

MERCI, MEGAN.

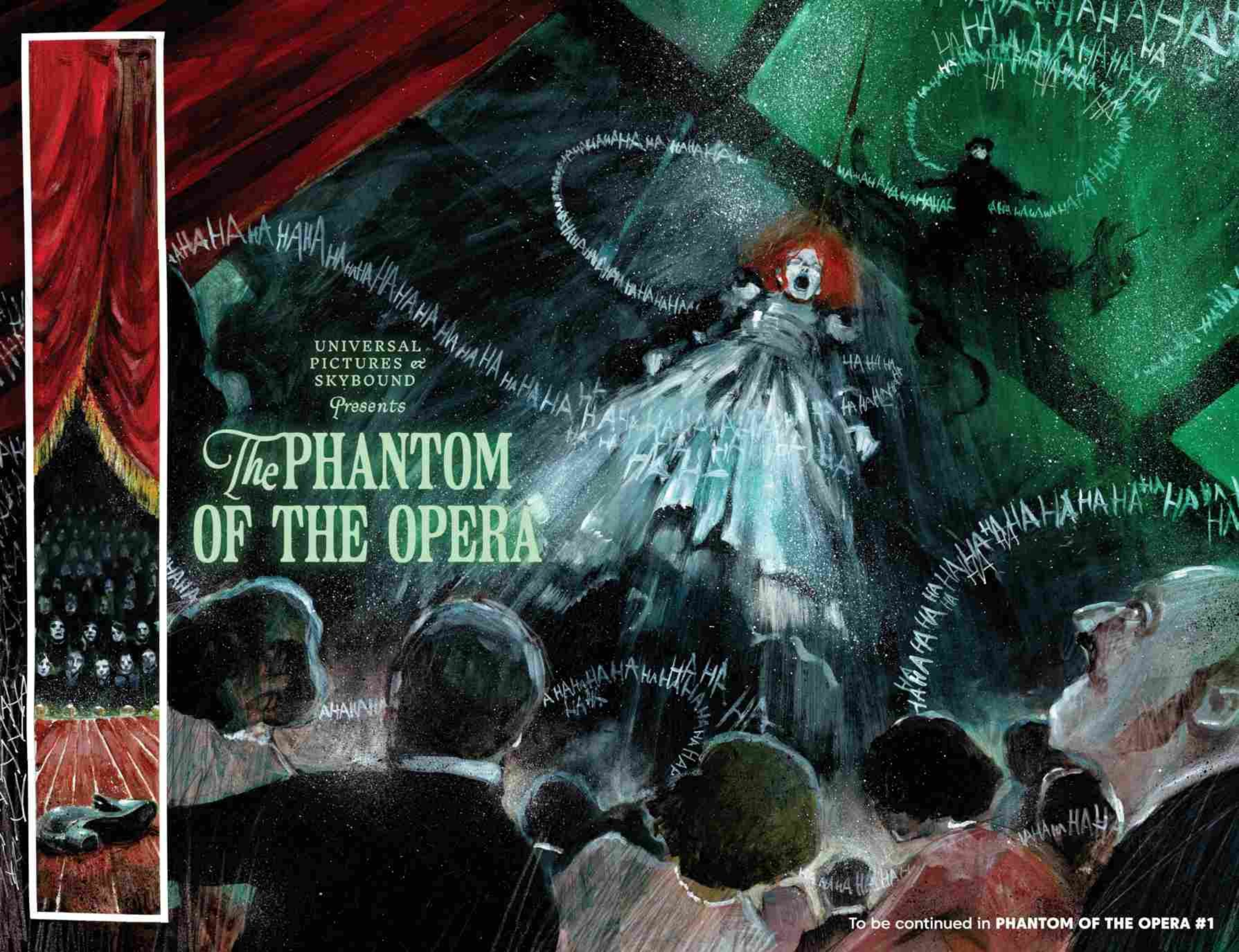
BANG BANG BANG
FINISH UP, ANATOLE. IT'S NEARLY CURTAIN.


IN BOCCA AL LUPO.
MERCI, GIGI, YOU TOO.




WHERE IS THAT FOOL?

ANATOLE?



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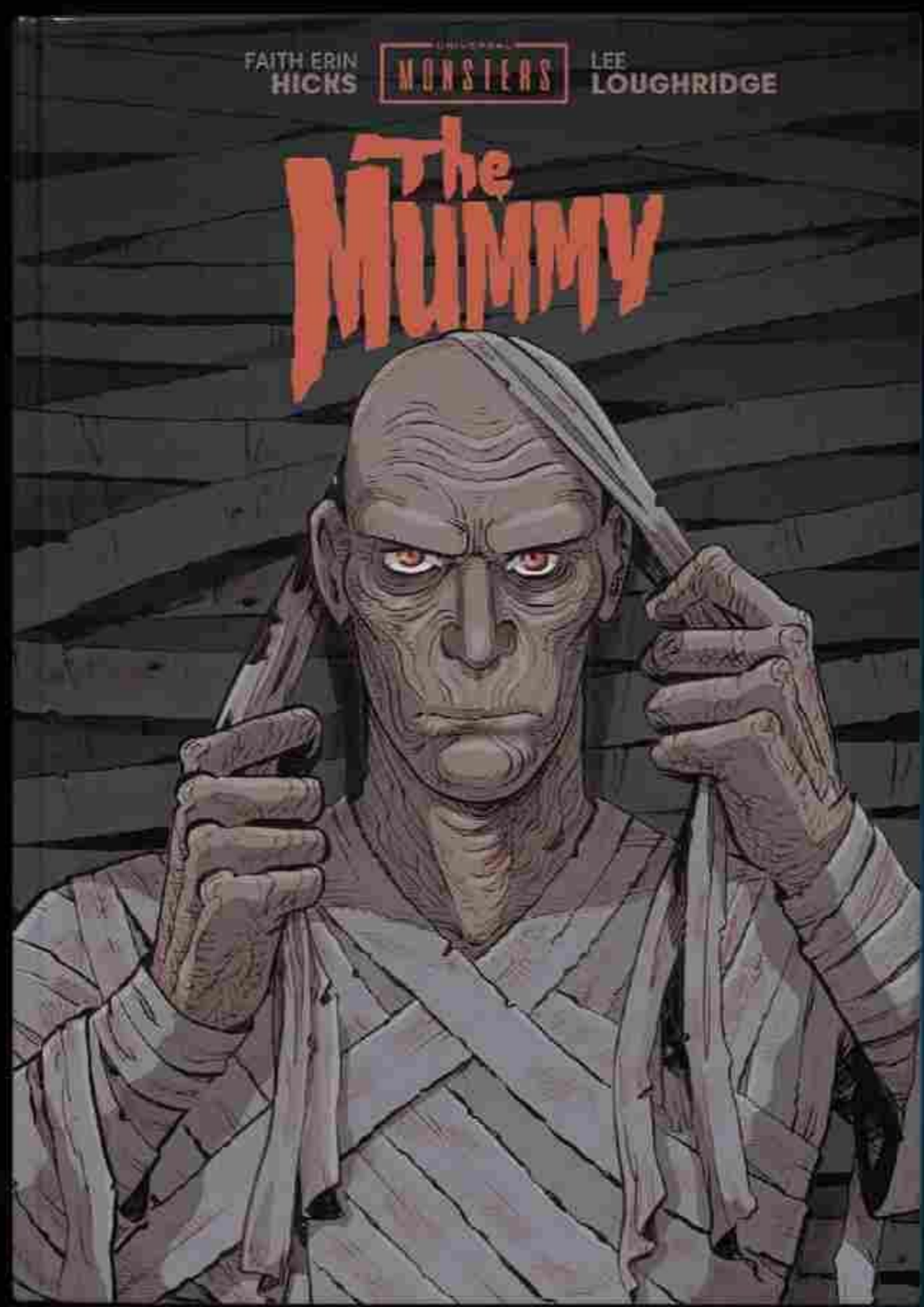

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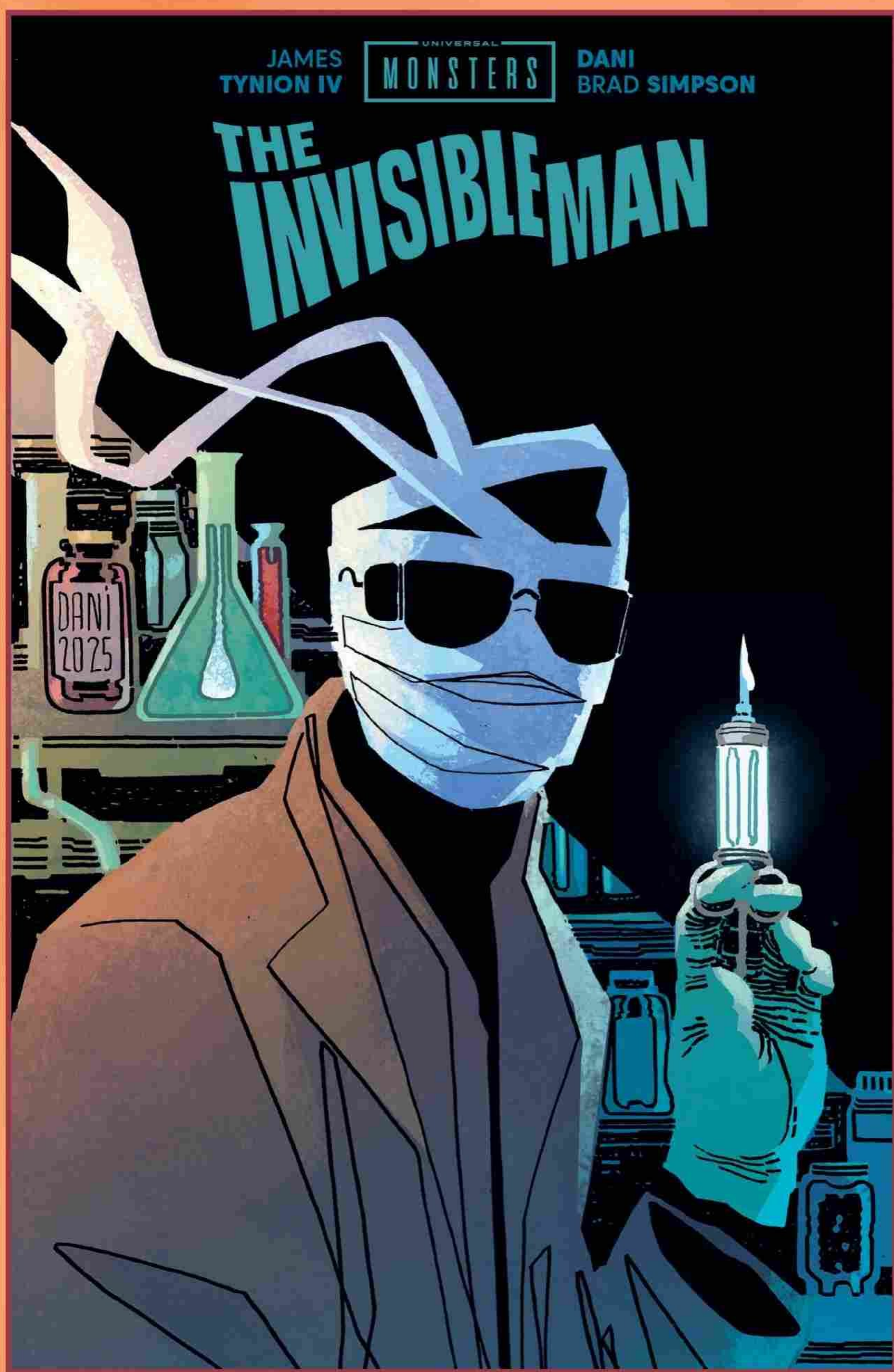

COVER ART BY
DANI & BRAD SIMPSON

HARDCOVER COLLECTION ON SALE

MARCH 25TH 2026

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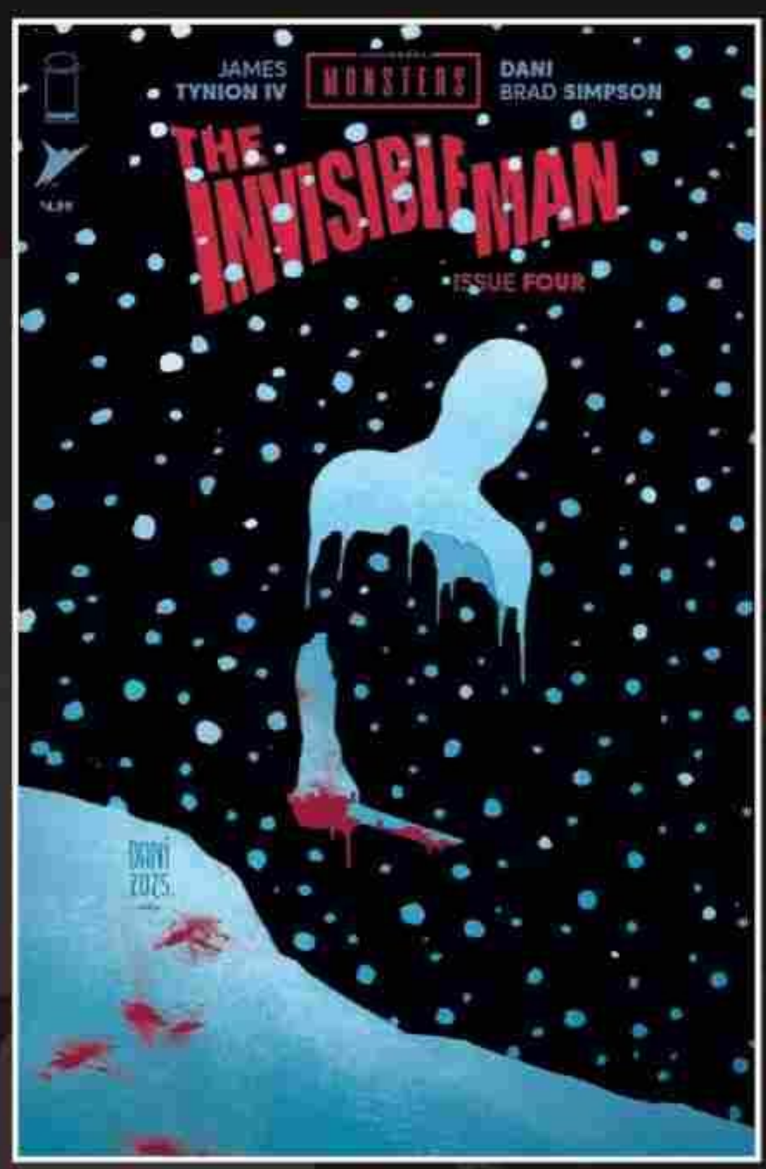

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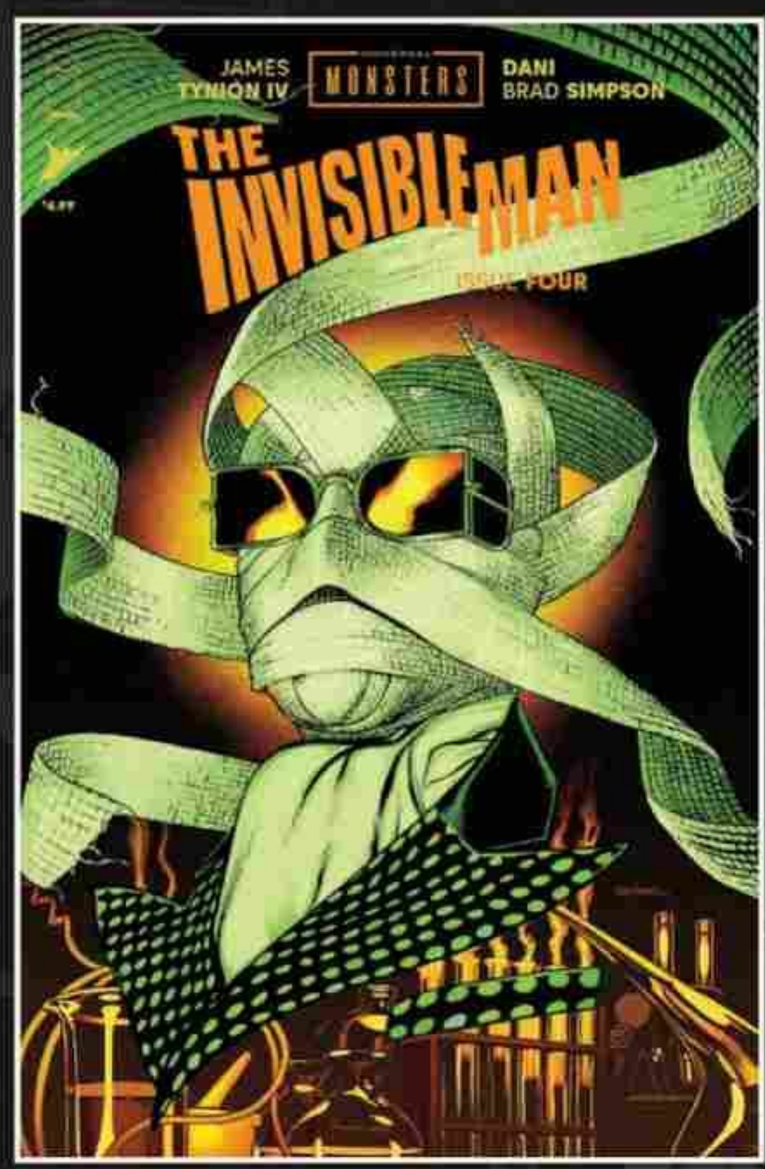

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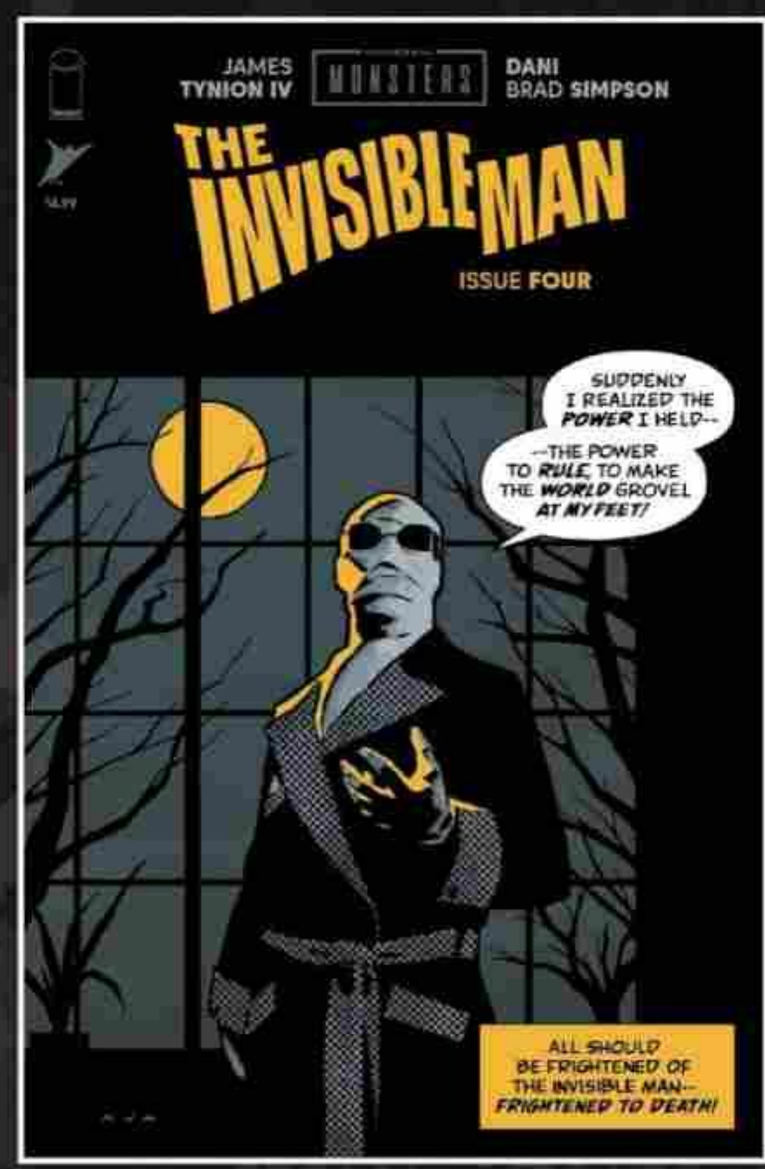

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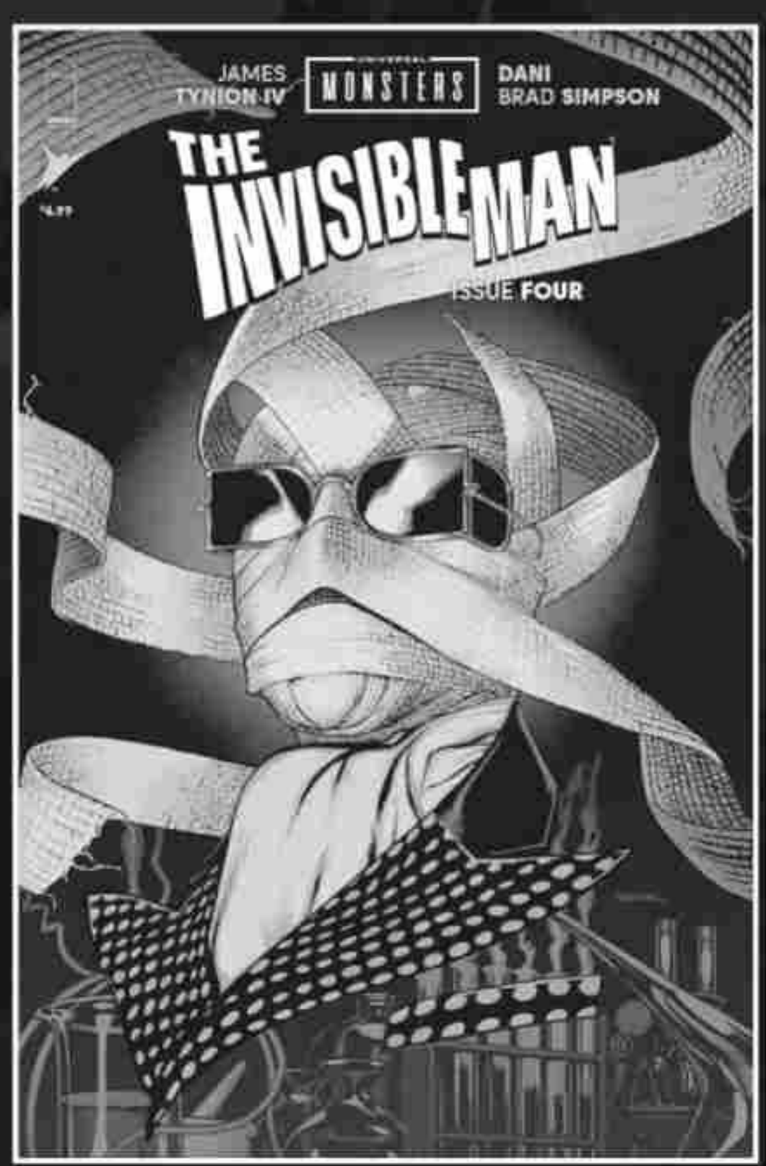

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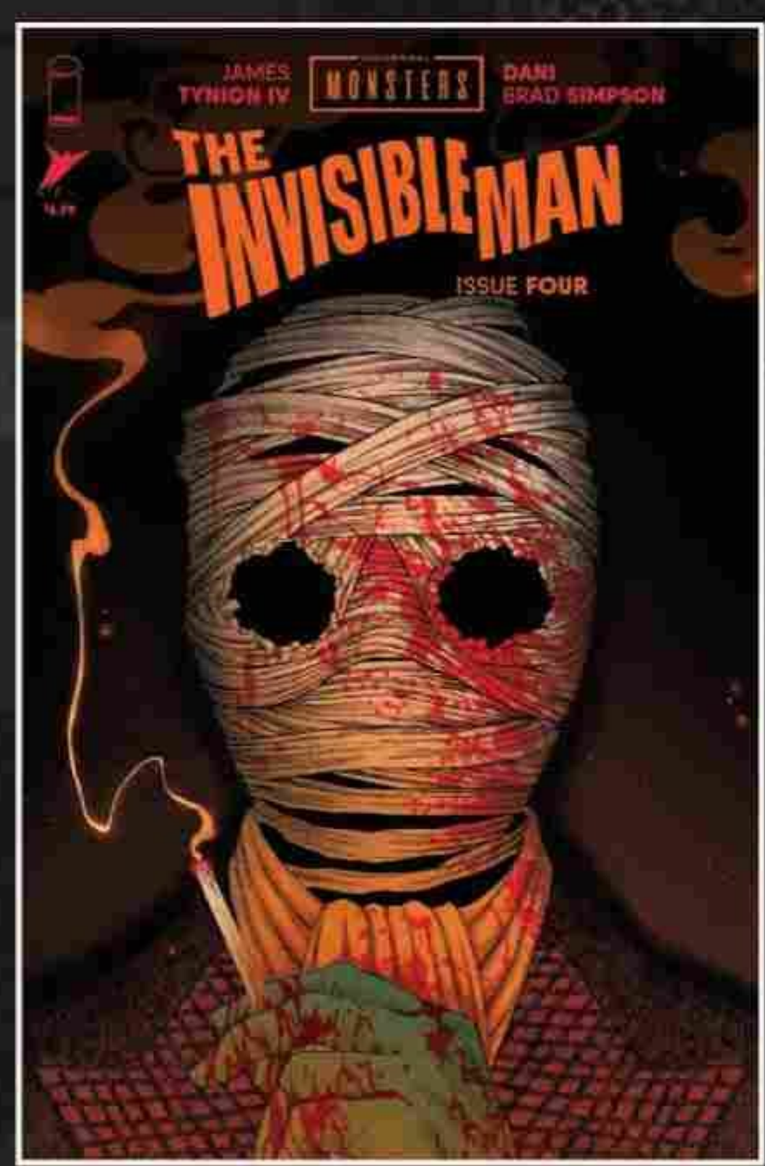

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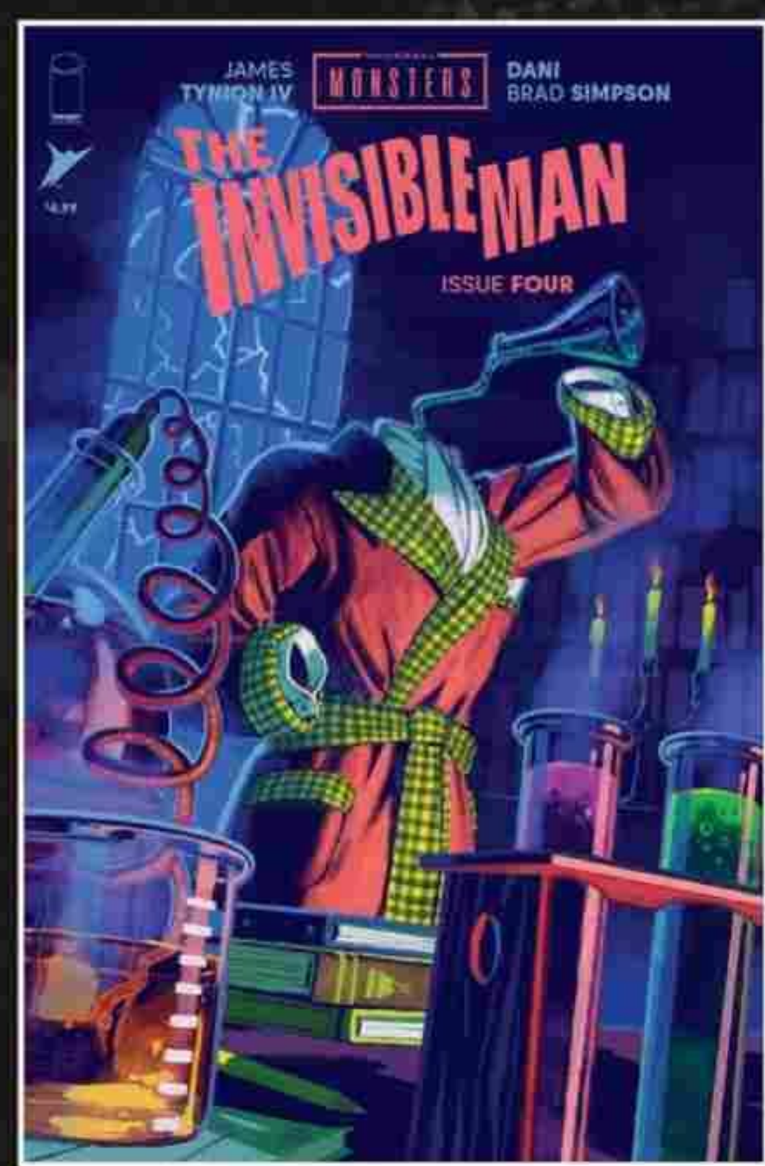

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